



Jesus Comes Back to Life

Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

Third- and fourth-graders know Jesus died for them. They also know he came back to life. Because they may not fully comprehend that the seemingly "minor" things they do wrong would be reason for Jesus to die, this lesson will give them a better understanding that Jesus' death and resurrection was for all sins, not just the "big" ones. Kids can see their own need for a savior and see Jesus as that Savior.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started	Easter Art <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create an Easter mosaic.	paper, tape, construction paper, markers, glue	Use plain paper and tape to make a large cross (about 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide). Tape it to a wall in your room where kids can reach it.
Bible Exploration	Jesus Is Crucified <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore what happened in Jesus' crucifixion.	Bibles, CD player, 4 soft-light lamps or electric candles, flashlight, unsweetened lemonade, pitcher, paper cups, sharpened pencils, blanket, table, index cards, pens, masking tape Teacher Pack: CD	



► **Bible Point**
Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will know that Jesus loves us and died for us so that we can have life with him forever.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	Jesus Is Alive <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn what Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, blanket, table, pens Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Resurrection Celebration! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and celebrate what Jesus did for them.	Bibles, CD player, white crayons, washable markers or watercolors, tissues, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, crosses	
Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Everything Falls Apart

Last week's lesson focused on the climax of Jesus' ministry. But just a few days later, everything had gone wrong—to human eyes. After betraying his Lord to the Jewish authorities who were out to get Jesus, Judas hanged himself in remorse. As Jesus had predicted, three times Peter denied even knowing Jesus.

And then Jesus was tried, mocked, flogged almost to death, and forced to carry his own cross toward the site of his crucifixion (John 19:17). At Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to a cross to die as a common criminal between two thieves. A sign was placed above his head that mocked his declaration that he was King.

The Meaning of Jesus' Death

What happened at the moment of Jesus' death confirmed who he really was (Matthew 27:50-56). The splitting of the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Temple had deep significance. The High Priest entered into the Most Holy Place only once a year to offer sacrifices for the people's sins (Hebrews 9:7)—the only time he could enter into God's presence. In taking our sins upon himself and dying for those sins, Jesus opened the way for us to have a direct relationship with God (Hebrews 10:19-20).

The Empty Tomb

The first people to see that empty tomb were the women closest to Jesus. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James arose early to anoint Jesus' body with spices, a common burial practice.

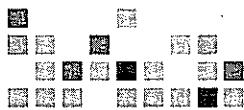
What Jesus did in his death on the cross—offering forgiveness for our sins—was an amazing and powerful demonstration of God's love. But what Jesus did on the first Easter morning was even more

astounding and perhaps more significant. Jesus' resurrection is at the core of our faith.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus' resurrection sealed our eternal life. Because Jesus went to death and back for us, God will forgive our sins and we can live forever in relationship with Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for your incredible victory!

When was the last time you dealt with a difficult situation or felt depressed? Remind yourself of Jesus' resurrection and gift of eternal life. How could reflecting on Jesus have put that situation in perspective and helped you deal with it? Make a prayer commitment to keep exploring Jesus' resurrection, and discover how it still changes you. You can write your prayer here.



Easter Art Supplies

paper
tape
construction paper
markers
glue

Easter Art Easy Prep

Use plain paper and tape to make a large cross (about 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide). Tape it to a wall in your room where kids can reach it.

Jesus Is Crucified Supplies

Bibles
CD player
4 soft-light lamps or electric candles
flashlight
unsweetened lemonade
pitcher
paper cups
sharpened pencils
blanket
table
index cards
pens
masking tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Torn Curtain" (track 4)

ALLERGY ALERT



GETTING STARTED

Easter Art

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Give each child a sheet of construction paper, and set out markers for kids to share.

Say: We're going to create a special cross. I want you to think about what Easter means to you and draw a picture on your piece of construction paper. When you've finished with your pictures, we'll piece them all together on our cross.

Give kids several minutes to draw their pictures. When they've finished, have kids tear their pieces of construction paper to fit like a mosaic onto the large cross that you prepared beforehand. As kids glue their pictures onto the cross, ask them to share with the whole group what Easter means to them.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the ways we've expressed what Easter means on our cross?
- What are some of your earliest memories of Easter?
- How has your understanding of Easter changed as you've grown older?

Say: In today's lesson, we'll explore what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross and what his resurrection means to us. When we consider what it means when we say that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, we'll discover that Easter is more than just an event in history—it's the reason we follow Jesus.



BIBLE EXPLORATION

Jesus Is Crucified

What You'll Do

For this activity, you'll need to darken the room and set out four soft-light lamps or electric candles that will each be turned off at various points.

Have kids form four groups, and distribute a Bible to each group. Ask each group for a willing child to serve as the "Reader" to read portions of the Bible passage. Have each group turn to one of the following passages: Matthew 27:27-31; Matthew 27:32-40; Matthew 27:41-44; and Matthew 27:45-49. Kids won't read the passages yet.

Give the Reader from the first group a flashlight to use while reading, and have him or her read aloud Matthew 27:27-31.

Pass around the sharpened pencils, and let kids poke themselves gently on their hands. Caution kids to be careful while holding the pencils and to refrain from poking anyone except themselves.

In their groups, have them discuss:

- What feelings or thoughts do you have about Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers?
- Tell about a time you felt humiliated.

Allow time for groups to discuss each question.

Then have a willing child from the first group, other than the Reader, come up and turn off one of the lamps or candles. Give the flashlight to the Reader from Group 2, and have him or her read aloud Matthew 27:32-40.

Pour a small amount of unsweetened lemonade into small drinking cups. Give each child in the whole group a sip of the unsweetened lemonade.

Say: The drink offered to Jesus was much more bitter and sour than the lemonade you've just tasted.

Ask kids to observe a few moments of silence.

Then have a willing child from the second group, other than the Reader, come up and turn off one of the lamps or candles. Give the flashlight to the Reader from Group 3, and have him or her read aloud Matthew 27:41-44.

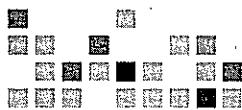
Say: Sit quietly for a moment and think about things people say to one another that are hurtful. Think of specific words people have said that hurt you, and replay them in your head.

Give kids a moment to sit quietly and think.

In their groups, have them discuss:

- What feelings or thoughts do you have about the insults hurled at Jesus by the various people in the passage?
- Tell about a time you felt made fun of, insulted, or hurt by words.

Allow time for groups to discuss each question.



Have a willing child from the third group, other than the Reader, come up and turn off one of the lamps or candles. Give the flashlight to the Reader from Group 4, and have him or her read aloud Matthew 27:45-49.

In their groups, have them discuss:

- What feelings or thoughts do you have about the sense of abandonment and hopelessness Jesus experienced while on the cross?
- Tell about a time you felt abandoned or hopeless.

Allow time for groups to discuss each question.

Have a willing child from the fourth group, other than the Reader, come up and turn off the last lamp or candle.

Say: Our sin keeps us separated from God. Jesus died on the cross so we could have forgiveness for sins and have a relationship with God. Through Jesus, we now have a friendship with God. Let's look at that now.

Turn on the room lights. Ask two willing children to stretch out the blanket and hold it up from two corners. Have the rest of the group sit on the floor on one side of the blanket. Have a third willing child read aloud Matthew 27:50-51.

Say: Imagine that God is on the other side of this blanket, like the curtain in the Temple. This blanket is like how sin separates us from the holiness of God—we can't get close to him or see him or understand him because our sin keeps us away from him.

Have the kids holding the blanket put it down on a table and spread it across the top. Give children each an index card and a pen, and have them each write one sin they have committed recently. Kids can reduce this to one or two words such as "fighting," "cheating," or "being mean."

After kids have finished writing, have them attach the index cards to the blanket with masking tape. Allow them to tape the cards facedown if they don't want others to see them.

Say: Each of these cards represents just one sin. But Jesus died for all the sins of every person who's ever lived. Jesus tore through the barrier between us and God, as only the son of God can.

Ask your blanket-holding kids to lift the blanket off the table and hold it up.

Play the "Torn Curtain" segment (track 4 on the CD). When you hear the narrator say, "Surely he was the Son of God" at the end of the track, have your kids drop the blanket. Once the blanket is dropped, stop the CD, gather up the blanket, and set it aside.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to experience an example of the way Jesus tears through the barrier of sin to bring us closer to God?
- How is that like or unlike what happened when the Temple curtain was torn?
- What are ways we can show respect for what Jesus did for us on the cross?

Say: It must've been awful for Jesus to go through what he did that day. But he did it for us—for you and for me. Jesus was willing to die on the cross so we could be forgiven for our sins. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the separation from God is gone. We can go to God now because Jesus paid the price for our sins. Isn't that great news? But our passage doesn't end with Jesus' death—because

► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Let's find out what happened next.

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE****Jesus Is Alive****What You'll Do**

Say: After Jesus was crucified, the Roman governor ordered that his dead body be sealed in a tomb. Let's create a "tomb" here to understand a little of what that meant.

Create a tomb by draping a blanket over a table and turning off the lights. (You can use the blanket from the previous activity, but remove the index cards from it first.)

Then have kids crawl through the tomb. As they do, turn on all the lights in the room so that it is very bright when they come out.

Have kids turn to the "Jesus Is Alive" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: The day Jesus was crucified, a lot of people said and did very cruel things to him. But a few people stayed faithful to him. Let's look at some of Jesus' followers after they found out that Jesus was alive, which meant that Jesus was who he said he was—the Son of God!

Show kids the "Jesus Rises From the Dead" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Have kids form trios. In their trios, have kids open their Bibles to Matthew 28:1-10. As they read Matthew 28:1-10, have kids write descriptions of the faith in Jesus shown by

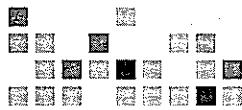
**Jesus Is Alive
Supplies**

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
blanket
table
pens
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

**Jesus Is Alive
Easy Prep**

Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





the people listed on the Bible Truth Sleuth page. When trios have finished their work, ask each one to share highlights and insights from their discussion.

Say: The women who went to the tomb and found out that Jesus had risen ran to tell lots of people that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. In your trios, talk about a person who you can tell the wonderful news that Jesus is alive.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be in our “tomb”?
- What was it like to come out of our “tomb”?
- Tell about a time you went through a dark time in life, but in the end everything worked out.
- What were some of the ways people in this Bible passage showed or didn’t show faith in Jesus?
- How does it change your life and faith to know that Jesus is alive?

Say: When Jesus came back to life from death, everything changed for all of God’s creation. Trusting in God’s power over death is a central part of what it means to follow Jesus. The women shared the great news that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. The news changed their lives and the lives of many others!

Resurrection Celebration! Supplies

Bibles
CD player
white crayons
washable markers or watercolors
tissues
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: “I Have Been Crucified” (Galatians 2:20) (track 5)
crosses

Resurrection Celebration!

What You’ll Do

Have kids open their Bibles to Galatians 2:20, and ask a willing child to read today’s Key Verse aloud: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Say: Jesus gave his life for us so that we could live without being slaves to our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, our sins died with him. Because of that, Jesus can live in us. That’s great news! Let’s celebrate with a song.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “I Have Been Crucified” (Galatians 2:20) (track 5 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.



(freestyle to the beat)

I have been crucified with Christ, (move fists out to the sides like a cross)

And it is no longer I who live, (place hands on chest)

But Christ lives in me. (raise hands high; then place them on chest)

And the life which I now live in the flesh, (pat chest to the beat)

I live by faith in the Son of God, (motion “Jesus” for “Son of God” by placing your right middle finger on left palm, then left middle finger on right palm)

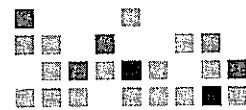
Who loved me (hug self)



And delivered himself up for me. (raise hands; then place them on chest)

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

"I Have Been Crucified" (Galatians 2:20) by Dean-o. © 2003, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Say: Let's make something to take home as a reminder of what Jesus did for us and how we can live our lives, no longer slaves to sin, but by faith in Jesus.

Give each child one cross. Have kids use white crayons to write their names on the crosses. Then have them use washable markers or watercolors to lightly paint over the names on the crosses. Allow kids to use several different colors to make their crosses more colorful.

After kids have finished with the markers or watercolors, have them use tissues to gently wipe the colors from their names.

Say: Just as we wiped the color from our names on the crosses, Jesus wiped away all of our sin by dying on the cross. You can take your cross home as a reminder that Jesus died for you and that your sins were crucified on the cross with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

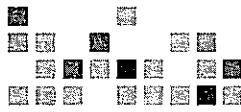
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think it means to be "crucified with Christ"?
- How can we tell if Christ lives in us?
- What does it look like to "live by faith"?
- What are some things in your life that you don't have to be a slave to because of Jesus?

Say: While we will always be sad and shocked by what happened to Jesus in his crucifixion, we have great reason to celebrate today because Jesus paid for our sins. ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Now we can have a growing relationship with Jesus because of his power over death. It's as if we've been crucified with Jesus because he took our sins with him to the cross. All those bad parts of us died along with Jesus, and were replaced with new life. And because ► JESUS IS ALIVE, when we have faith in Jesus, his Spirit lives inside us.





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can know that ► JESUS IS ALIVE this week.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Tell someone who may not know Jesus about how he's alive. You could even invite that person to worship with you next week.
- Write down one thing you see each day that tells you Jesus is alive.
- Think about what it means to live every day as someone who's been "crucified with Christ."

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: The greatest miracle that ever happened was when God brought Jesus back to life. Let's show the world we believe that ► JESUS IS ALIVE by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' power over death. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice and thanking him because his love for us is amazing! Ask Jesus to help us remember to live as people who have new life.

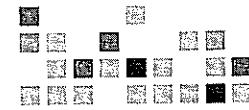
Lyrics**I Have Been Crucified (Galatians 2:20)**

I have been crucified with Christ,
And it is no longer I who live,
But Christ lives in me.

And the life which I now live in the flesh,
I live by faith in the Son of God,
Who loved me
And delivered himself up for me.

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

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